PDAs & Smartphones

Buyers' guide

Confused about buying a PDA? This buyers' guide will give you everything you need to know to make the right handheld purchase

Platform Guide

Palm OS Garnet 5.4
The most recent version of the Palm operating system.

WM5
Windows Mobile 5. The latest version, with permanent storage and improved software.

WM5 Phone Ed
As Windows Mobile 5, but for Phone-based devices.

WM2003 SE
Windows Mobile 2003 Second Edition. Only seen on end-of-line devices.

WM2003 SE SP
Windows Mobile 2003 Second Edition for Smartphones. OlderOS only seen on end-of-line devices.

WM5 SP
Windows Mobile 5 for Smartphones. Latest version of the OS, with improved performance.

Symbian, Series 80
Smartphone OS for widescreen devices.

Symbian, S60 2nd Ed
The most popular smartphone platform, with non-touch screen display.

Symbian, S60 3rd Ed
New version with updated security, and faster and more stable performance.

Symbian, UIQ 3
Symbian OS with touch screen support.

BlackBerry
Devices designed primarily for push email support.

PALM OS

Palm Life Drive £295

OS: Palm OS Garnet 5.4
Processor: Intel 416MHz
Memory: 4MB
Dimensions: 121 x 73 x 19mm
Weight: 193g
Display res: 320 x 480 pixels

Verdict 7 — GSM ○ GPRS ○ EDGE ○ 3G ○ Bluetooth ● Wi-fi ● Camera ○

We say Feature-packed but sluggish performance

Group Test Winner

Palm TX £224

OS: Palm OS Garnet 5.4
Processor: Intel 312MHz
Memory: 128MB
Dimensions: 121x 78 x 15mm
Weight: 149g
Display res: 320 x 480 pixels

Verdict 8 — GSM ○ GPRS ○ EDGE ○ 3G ○ Bluetooth ● Wi-fi ● Camera ○

We say A rare wi-fi model from Palm, but a good one

Palm Z22 £80

OS: Palm OS Garnet 5.4
Processor: Samsung 200MHz
Memory: 32MB
Dimensions: 103 x 68 x 15mm
Weight: 96g
Display res: 160 x 160 pixels

Verdict 6 — GSM ○ GPRS ○ EDGE ○ 3G ○ Bluetooth ○ Wi-fi ○ Camera ○

We say Ultra low-end handheld, with no extras

WINDOWS MOBILE (PPC)

Acer N311 £298

OS: WM5
Processor: Samsung 400MHz
Memory: 128MB
Dimensions: 110 x 70 x 14mm
Weight: 135g
Display res: 480 x 640 pixels

Verdict 8 — GSM ○ GPRS ○ EDGE ○ 3G ○ Bluetooth ● Wi-fi ● Camera ○

We say Small mid-range PDA with VGA screen

Editor's Choice
Group Test Winner

Dell Axim X51v £262

OS: WM5
Processor: PXA270 624MHz
Memory: 256MB
Dimensions: 119 x 73 x 16.9mm
Weight: 175g
Display res: 480 x 640 pixels

Verdict 9 — GSM ○ GPRS ○ EDGE ○ 3G ○ Bluetooth ● Wi-fi ● Camera ○

We say Still the most powerful PDA available

ETEN M600+ £409*

OS: WM5 Phone Ed
Processor: Samsung 400MHz
Memory: 180MB
Dimensions: 111 x 60 x 22mm
Weight: 165g
Display res: 240 x 320 pixels

Verdict 8 — GSM ● GPRS ● EDGE ○ 3G ○ Bluetooth ● Wi-fi ● Camera ●

We say Update to the M600 with more storage

Fujitsu Siemens Loox C550 £316

OS: WM5
Processor: Intel 520MHz
Memory: 128MB
Dimensions: 116 x 71 x 14mm
Weight: 160g
Display res: 480 x 640 pixels

Verdict 8 — GSM ○ GPRS ○ EDGE ○ 3G ○ Bluetooth ● Wi-fi ● Camera ○

We say High-end PDA with most of what you need

Fujitsu Siemens Loox N520 £280

OS: WM5
Processor: Intel 312MHz
Memory: 128MB
Dimensions: 116 x 71 x 14mm
Weight: 160g
Display res: 240 x 320 pixels

Verdict 8 — GSM ○ GPRS ○ EDGE ○ 3G ○ Bluetooth ● Wi-fi ● Camera ○

We say GPS-based Pocket PC, at a good price

WINDOWS MOBILE (PPC)

Fujitsu Siemens Loox N560 £376

OS: WM5
Processor: Intel 624MHz
Memory: 128MB
Dimensions: 116 x 71 x 14mm
Weight: 160g
Display res: 480 x 640 pixels

Verdict 8 — GSM ○ GPRS ○ EDGE ○ 3G ○ Bluetooth ● Wi-fi ● Camera ○

We say Very high-end PDA, rivalling the Axim X51v

Fujitsu Siemens Loox T830 £460*

OS: WM5 Phone Ed
Processor: Intel 416MHz
Memory: 128MB
Dimensions: 126 x 64 x 21mm
Weight: 190g
Display res: 240 x 240 pixels

Verdict 7 — GSM ● GPRS ● EDGE ● 3G ● Bluetooth ● Wi-fi ● Camera ●

We say Feature-packed but let down by the small screen

HP iPAQ hw6915 £450*

OS: WM5 Phone Ed
Processor: Intel 416MHz
Memory: 45MB
Dimensions: 118 x 71 x 18mm
Weight: 179g
Display res: 240 x 240 pixels

Verdict 8 — GSM ● GPRS ● EDGE ● 3G ○ Bluetooth ● Wi-fi ● Camera ●

We say New device adds wi-fi and satnav software

Editor's Choice

HP iPAQ hx2790 £399

OS: WM5
Processor: Intel 624MHz
Memory: 192MB
Dimensions: 119 x 77 x 16mm
Weight: 164g
Display res: 240 x 320 pixels

Verdict 9 — GSM ○ GPRS ○ EDGE ○ 3G ○ Bluetooth ● Wi-fi ● Camera ○

We say High-end business device with robust security

HP iPAQ rx1950 £207

OS: WM5
Processor: Samsung 300MHz
Memory: 128MB
Dimensions: 114 x 71 x 14mm
Weight: 125g
Display res: 240 x 320 pixels

Verdict 7 — GSM ○ GPRS ○ EDGE ○ 3G ○ Bluetooth ● Wi-fi ○ Camera

We say Good looking PDA with wi-fi but no Bluetooth

Group Test Winner

HTC TyTN £499*

OS: WM5 Phone Ed
Processor: Samsung 400MHz
Memory: 128MB
Dimensions: 112 x 58 x 22mm
Weight: 176g
Display res: 240 x 320 pixels

Verdict 8 — GSM ● GPRS ● EDGE ● 3G ● Bluetooth ● Wi-fi ● Camera ●

We say Superb device, but an expensive one too

i-mate JAQ £310*

OS: WM5 Phone Ed
Processor: TI 200MHz
Memory: 128MB
Dimensions: 122 x 71 x 21mm
Weight: 160g
Display res: 240 x 320 pixels

Verdict 6 — GSM ● GPRS ● EDGE ○ 3G ● Bluetooth ○ Wi-fi ○ Camera ○

We say Large and fairly ordinary PDA phone

i-mate JASJAR £659*

OS: WM5 Phone Ed
Processor: Intel 520MHz
Memory: 128MB
Dimensions: 128 x 81 x 25mm
Weight: 285g
Display res: 480 x 640 pixels

Verdict 8 — GSM ● GPRS ● EDGE ● 3G ● Bluetooth ● Wi-fi ● Camera ●

We say Large and feature-packed 3G mini-laptop

i-mate K-JAM £490*

OS: WM5 Phone Ed
Processor: TI 200Mhz
Memory: 128MB
Dimensions: 108 x 58 x 24mm
Weight: 160g
Display res: 240 x 320 pixels

Verdict 8 — GSM ● GPRS ● EDGE ● 3G ○ Bluetooth ● Wi-fi ● Camera ●

We say Brilliantly designed keyboarded Pocket PC

Editor's Choice

Mio A701 £399*

OS: WM5 Phone Ed
Processor: 520MHz Intel
Memory: 128MB
Dimensions: 107 x 57 x 18.8mm
Weight: 148g
Display res: 240 x 320 pixels

Verdict 9 — GSM ● GPRS ● EDGE ● 3G ● Bluetooth ○ Wi-fi ● Camera

We say Stylish Phone Edition with built-in GPS

Mio P350 £190

OS: WM5
Processor: Samsung 400MHz
Memory: 128MB
Dimensions: 115 x 72 x 18mm
Weight: 170g
Display res: 240 x 320 pixels

Verdict 8 — GSM ○ GPRS ○ EDGE ○ 3G ○ Bluetooth ○ Wi-fi ○ Camera ○

We say Very low-end PDA with integrated GPS

Mio P550 £250

OS: WM5
Processor: Samsung 400MHz
Memory: 128MB
Dimensions: 115 x 72 x 18mm
Weight: 170g
Display res: 240 x 320 pixels

Verdict 7 — GSM ○ GPRS ○ EDGE ○ 3G ● Bluetooth ● Wi-fi ○ Camera ○

We say Dual wireless and GPS at a good price point

Palm Treo 750v £129 w/c

OS: WM5 Phone Ed
Processor: Samsung 300MHz
Memory: 64MB
Dimensions: 111 x 58 x 22mm
Weight: 154g
Display res: 240 x 240 pixels

Verdict 8 — GSM ● GPRS ● EDGE ● 3G ● Bluetooth ○ Wi-fi ● Camera ●

We say Great update to the Treo line, with Windows Mobile

T-Mobile MDA Compact II £free w/c

OS: WM5 Phone Ed
Processor: TI 195MHz
Memory: 64MB
Dimensions: 108 x 58 x 18mm
Weight: 150g
Display res: 240 x 320 pixels

Verdict 7 — GSM ● GPRS ● EDGE ● 3G ○ Bluetooth ○ Wi-fi ● Camera ●

We say Compact is the word for this stylish smartphone

UBiQUiO 401 £399

OS: WM5 Phone Ed
Processor: Intel 416MHz
Memory: 64MB
Dimensions: 109 x 53 x 24mm
Weight: 153g
Display res: 240 x 320 pixels

Verdict 5 — GSM ● GPRS ● EDGE ● 3G ○ Bluetooth ● Wi-fi ● Camera ●

We say Packed with features, but ordinary performance

* Prices are guides only. Phone prices are for the SIM-free model. Where they are unavailable 'with contract' prices are quoted instead

Buyers' guide continued >>>

>>> continued

WINDOWS SMARTPHONES

HTC S310 £215*

OS	WM5 SP
Processor	TI 200MHz
Memory	64MB
Dimensions	108 x 47 x 19mm
Weight	106g
Display res	176 x 220 pixels

Verdict 7

GSM	GPRS	EDGE	3G	Bluetooth	Wi-fi	Camera
●	●	●	○	●	○	●

We say Low-end device. Price is its main selling point

O2 XDA IQ £free w/c

OS	WM5 SP
Processor	TI 195MHz
Memory	32MB
Dimensions	109 x 46 x 18mm
Weight	110g
Display res	240 x 320 pixels

Verdict 8

GSM	GPRS	EDGE	3G	Bluetooth	Wi-fi	Camera
●	●	●	○	●	●	●

We say A rare Windows Smartphone with wi-fi

Qtek 8500 £327*

OS	WM5 SP
Processor	TI 200MHz
Memory	64MB
Dimensions	98 x 51 x 16mm
Weight	99g
Display res	240 x 320 pixels

Verdict 7

GSM	GPRS	EDGE	3G	Bluetooth	Wi-fi	Camera
●	●	●	○	●	○	●

We say RAZR-style thin smartphone, light on specs

Samsung SGH-i300 £490*

OS	WM2003 SE SP
Processor	N/A
Memory	3GB
Dimensions	113 x 48 x 20mm
Weight	121g
Display res	240 x 320 pixels

Verdict 7

GSM	GPRS	EDGE	3G	Bluetooth	Wi-fi	Camera
●	●	●	○	●	○	●

We say Smartphone with 3GB internal hard drive

Virgin Mobile Lobster 700TV £199

OS	WM5 SP
Processor	TI 200MHz
Memory	128MB
Dimensions	111 x 58 x 24mm
Weight	140g
Display res	240 x 320 pixels

Verdict 7

GSM	GPRS	EDGE	3G	Bluetooth	Wi-fi	Camera
●	●	●	○	●	○	●

We say Funny looking phone with decent but limited TV

SYMBIAN SMARTPHONES

Nokia 9300i £389*

OS	Symbian, Series 80
Processor	TI 150MHz
Memory	80MB
Dimensions	132 x 51 x 21mm
Weight	172g
Display res	640 x 200 pixels

Verdict 8

GSM	GPRS	EDGE	3G	Bluetooth	Wi-fi	Camera
●	●	●	○	●	●	○

We say Wi-fi enabled follow-up to the 9300

Editor's Choice PDA Essentials

Group Test Winner PDA Essentials

Nokia E61 £319*

OS	Symbian, S60 3rd Ed
Processor	220MHz ARM
Memory	64MB
Dimensions	113 x 68 x 15mm
Weight	143g
Display res	320 x 240 pixels

Verdict 9

GSM	GPRS	EDGE	3G	Bluetooth	Wi-fi	Camera
●	●	●	●	●	●	○

We say Superb BlackBerry-style email handheld

Nokia E70 £329*

OS	Symbian, S60 3rd Ed
Processor	220MHz ARM
Memory	64MB
Dimensions	117 x 53 x 22mm
Weight	127g
Display res	352 x 416 pixels

Verdict 9

GSM	GPRS	EDGE	3G	Bluetooth	Wi-fi	Camera
●	●	●	●	●	●	●

We say Innovative and feature-packed smartphone

Editor's Choice PDA Essentials

Nokia N80 £359*

OS	Symbian, S60 3rd Ed
Processor	N/A
Memory	40MB
Dimensions	95 x 50 x 26mm
Weight	134g
Display res	352 x 416 pixels

Verdict 9

GSM	GPRS	EDGE	3G	Bluetooth	Wi-fi	Camera
●	●	●	●	●	●	●

We say Expensive but with every feature available

Nokia N91 £400*

OS	Symbian, S60 3rd Ed
Processor	N/A
Memory	4GB
Dimensions	113 x 55 x 22mm
Weight	164g
Display res	176 x 208 pixels

Verdict 7

GSM	GPRS	EDGE	3G	Bluetooth	Wi-fi	Camera
●	●	●	○	●	●	●

We say Bulky music phone with 4GB hard drive

Nokia N93 £540*

OS	Symbian, S60 3rd Ed
Processor	220MHz ARM
Memory	50MB
Dimensions	118 x 55 x 28mm
Weight	180g
Display res	240 x 320 pixels

Verdict 8

GSM	GPRS	EDGE	3G	Bluetooth	Wi-fi	Camera
●	●	●	●	●	●	●

We say High quality camera /camcorder smartphone

Sony Ericsson M600i £350*

OS	Symbian, UIQ 3
Processor	N/A
Memory	60MB
Dimensions	107 x 57 x 15mm
Weight	112g
Display res	240 x 320 pixels

Verdict 8

GSM	GPRS	EDGE	3G	Bluetooth	Wi-fi	Camera
●	●	●	●	●	○	○

We say Stylish UIQ device with innovative keyboard

Sony Ericsson P990i £550*

OS	Symbian, UIQ 3
Processor	N/A
Memory	60MB
Dimensions	114 x 57 x 25mm
Weight	150g
Display res	240 x 320 pixels

Verdict 7

GSM	GPRS	EDGE	3G	Bluetooth	Wi-fi	Camera
●	●	●	●	●	●	●

We say Let down by the odd issue with the UIQ interface

BLACKBERRY DEVICES

BlackBerry 7130g £free w/c

OS	BlackBerry
Processor	Intel 312MHz
Memory	64MB
Dimensions	115 x 56 x 18mm
Weight	120g
Display res	240 x 320 pixels

Verdict 8

GSM	GPRS	EDGE	3G	Bluetooth	Wi-fi	Camera
●	●	●	○	●	○	○

We say Candybar device for consumer email users

BlackBerry 8700g £free w/c

OS	BlackBerry
Processor	Intel 312MHz
Memory	64MB
Dimensions	110 x 70 x 20mm
Weight	134g
Display res	240 x 320 pixels

Verdict 7

GSM	GPRS	EDGE	3G	Bluetooth	Wi-fi	Camera
●	●	●	○	●	○	○

We say A good effort, but still a niche device

* Prices are guides only. Phone prices are for the SIM-free model. Where they are unavailable 'with contract' prices are quoted instead